

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 16, 2017

The Honorable Curtis Coy  
Deputy Under Secretary for Economic Opportunity  
Veterans Benefits Administration  
810 Vermont Avenue N.W.  
Washington, DC 20420

Deputy Under Secretary Coy:

We are writing regarding our student veteran population and the university services staff dedicated to serving those who serve us. While these dedicated individuals focus on helping student veterans to succeed in school, too often these staff members find themselves buried in redundant and cumbersome data collection. However, if staff submitted data directly to the Veterans Administration (VA) through the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC), it would save time and reduce unnecessary data entries.

We ask that the VA give full consideration for the proposal to utilize the current NSC process to allow similar data submission to VA. The NSC already asks schools to indicate veteran status and collect course, grade, degree and enrollment information. This proposal would build off this existing process by allowing NSC to work with VA to allow VA-ONCE or VACERT to accept data from the NSC, including completions, bio-data and terminations. It would also build a working relationship between NSC, VA and institutional School Certifying Officials (SCO) to ensure efficient data submission and improved measurements and reporting of student outcomes.

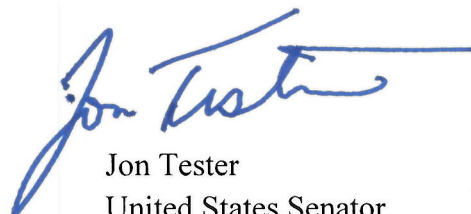
These university staff, many of whom are veterans themselves, dedicate their careers to ensuring that student veterans can excel in an academic environment. However, due to the immense workload of monitoring and submitting data to verify eligibility for educational benefits, they often lack the time necessary to aid veteran students with issues such as assimilation and crucial study habits. This proposal offers a commonsense way to streamline the data submission process to VA while giving our veteran student population more resources to succeed in their colleges and universities.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator



Jon Tester  
United States Senator